

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of automatically notifying one or more
2 contacts regarding travel plans, the method
3 comprising:
4 scheduling the travel plans using a computer system;
5 recording the scheduled travel plans on a nonvolatile
6 storage device connected to the computer system;
7 and
8 sending a message to each of the contacts in response
9 to the scheduling.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 grouping the contacts into a plurality of classes;
3 wherein the sending further includes:
4 providing varying levels of detail corresponding
5 to the travel plans to the contacts based
6 upon the class corresponding to each
7 contact.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 providing a contact method for each of the contacts,
3 wherein the contact method includes at least one
4 of sending an email message, sending a facsimile,
5 sending a voice mail, sending a page, and sending
6 a data stream using a predefined protocol.
- 1 4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 reading a user profile, the user profile stored on a
3 nonvolatile storage device;
4 wherein the reading determines the message to use for
5 each contact.

1 5. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 grouping the contacts into a plurality of classes;
3 wherein the sending further includes:

4 providing varying levels of detail corresponding
5 to the travel plans to the contacts based
6 upon the class corresponding to each
7 contact.

1 6. A method of automatically setting a home automation
2 system based upon a user's travel plans, the method
3 comprising:

4 scheduling the travel plans using a computer system;
5 recording the scheduled travel plans on a nonvolatile
6 storage device connected to the computer system;
7 sending a message to the home automation system; and
8 setting a home automation environment in the home
9 automation system.

1 7. The method as described in claim 6 further comprising:
2 registering the home automation system with an email
3 system;
4 wherein the sending further comprises sending an
5 electronic message from the email system to the
6 home automation system.

1 8. The method as described in claim 6 wherein the setting
2 further includes:
3 setting a travel home automation environment in
4 response to the message indicating that the user
5 is traveling.

1 9. The method as described in claim 6 wherein the sending
2 includes transferring the message using a secure
3 transmission protocol.

1 10. The method as described in claim 6 further comprising:
2 storing home automation environment data in a user
3 profile stored on a nonvolatile storage device;
4 reading the home automation environment data from the
5 user profile; and
6 creating the message based on the read home automation
7 environment data.

1 11. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the
5 processors; and
6 a contact notification tool, the contact notification
7 tool including:
8 means for scheduling the travel plans using a
9 computer system;
10 means for recording the scheduled travel plans on
11 a nonvolatile storage device connected to
12 the computer system; and
13 means for sending a message to each of the
14 contacts in response to the scheduling.

1 12. The information handling system as described in claim
2 11 wherein one of the contacts includes a home
3 automation system and the system further comprises:

4 means for setting a home automation environment in the
5 home automation system in response to the
6 message.

1 13. The information handling system as described in claim
2 12 further comprising:

3 means for registering the home automation system with
4 an email system;

5 wherein the sending further comprises:

6 means for sending an electronic message from an
7 email system to the home automation system.

1 14. The information handling system as described in claim
2 12 further comprising:

3 means for storing home automation environment data in
4 a user profile stored on a nonvolatile storage
5 device;

6 means for reading the home automation environment data
7 from the user profile; and

8 means for creating the message based on the read home
9 automation environment data.

1 15. The information handling system as described in claim
2 11 further comprising:

3 means for grouping the contacts into a plurality of
4 classes;

5 wherein the means for sending further includes:

6 means for providing varying levels of detail
7 corresponding to the travel plans to the
8 contacts based upon the class corresponding
9 to each contact.

1 16. The information handling system as described in claim
2 11 further comprising:

3 means for providing a contact method for each of the
4 contacts, wherein the contact method includes at
5 least one of sending an email message, sending a
6 voice mail, sending a facsimile, sending a page,
7 and sending a data stream using a predefined
8 protocol.

1 17. The information handling system as described in claim
2 11 further comprising:

3 means for reading a user profile, the user profile
4 stored on a nonvolatile storage device; and
5 means for determining the message to use for each
6 contact based on the user profile.

1 18. A computer program product for notifying contacts,
2 said computer program product comprising:
3 means for scheduling the travel plans using a computer
4 system;
5 means for recording the scheduled travel plans on a
6 nonvolatile storage device connected to the
7 computer system; and
8 means for sending a message to each of the contacts in
9 response to the scheduling.

1 19. The computer program product as described in claim 18
2 wherein one of the contacts includes a home automation
3 system and the system further comprises:
4 means for setting a home automation environment in the
5 home automation system in response to the
6 message.

1 20. The computer program product as described in claim 19
2 further comprising:
3 means for registering the home automation system with
4 an email system;
5 wherein the sending further comprises:
6 means for sending an electronic message from an
7 email system to the home automation system.

1 21. The computer program product as described in claim 19
2 further comprising:
3 means for storing home automation environment data in
4 a user profile stored on a nonvolatile storage
5 device;
6 means for reading the home automation environment data
7 from the user profile; and
8 means for creating the message based on the read home
9 automation environment data.

1 22. The computer program product as described in claim 18
2 further comprising:
3 means for grouping the contacts into a plurality of
4 classes;
5 wherein the means for sending further includes:
6 means for providing varying levels of detail
7 corresponding to the travel plans to the
8 contacts based upon the class corresponding
9 to each contact.

1 23. The computer program product as described in claim 18
2 further comprising:
3 means for providing a contact method for each of the
4 contacts, wherein the contact method includes at

5 least one of sending an email message, sending a
6 voice mail, sending a facsimile, sending a page,
7 and sending a data stream using a predefined
8 protocol.

1 24. The computer program product as described in claim 18
2 further comprising:

3 means for reading a user profile, the user profile
4 stored on a nonvolatile storage device; and
5 means for determining the message to use for each
6 contact based on the user profile.